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## HOUSE DECLARES FOR DRAINAGE

CRANE BILL PASSES WITH ONLY FOURTEEN  
VOTES IN OPPOSITION—MINORITY REPORT  
ON DISBARMENT RELIEF BILLS—REVENUE  
BILL PASSES.

The beginning of the last week of the session in the House yesterday morning was permeated with the purpose of a jaded nag near the journey's end with a last spurt put forward.

As the days grow fewer there is an evident desire from the chair to push things, and with many members the same desire is present, though the spirit seems not to take entire possession. The spirit of contention and the all-human inclination to be heard still has a hydra head, and countless minutes are consumed every day in unprofitable discussion and explanation. Here it is that the Speaker has an opportunity to show an iron hand, yet if he did he would be subjected to harsher criticism than by making the House a martyr and the State the sufferer to the pent-up melodies of the feculent and fossilized. While the popular displeasure grows faucous with the suggestion of gag rule, there is no member who will not confess in the ante-room that he would be glad to see some tiresome colleague seized with lung congestion.

Thrilling episodes were few, yet it was a good day for business. A number of measures were disposed of, and others were put in the way of getting off the calendar; most of these were local measures, none of them of great importance; the drainage bill excepted. This measure was up out of the usual order upon demand of the Committee on Finance and Taxation, to which it was referred Saturday night, and it passed under suspension. There were some surprises in the vote. After the surrender of the Senate it was not expected that any serious opposition would be met in the House, yet it was hardly less than a surprise that the votes against the bill were numbered in a round dozen and two additional; the vote was 38 to 14, as follows:

For the bill: Messrs. Avant, Baggett, Carter, Cobb, Crawford, Decker, Duke, DuPont, Farris, Faulkner, Geiger, Griggs, Harrell, Johnson, Kilgore, Kirkland, Knight (Citrus), Knight (Columbia), Lassiter, Long, MacWilliams, Malone, Mathews, Neel, Parkinson, Paul, Penden, Peoples, Pettigrew, Reese, Richbourg, Rowe, Smith, Snell, Wartmann, Willis (Levy), Williams, Wilson (Hernando), Wilson (Lee)—38.

Against: The Speaker, Messrs. Abernethy, Calkins, Clarke, Donegan, Hartsfield, Hooker, McKenzie, Melton, Milliner, Morrison, Russell, Watson, Wells—14.

The drainage measure was that introduced by Senator Crane and passed by the Senate, amending the act of 1906, reducing the area upon which the tax shall be levied for drainage purposes.

The further consideration of the revenue license bill occupied the morning session, and during the time of its reading scarcely a quorum remained in the hall. It was finally passed, and it is hoped will produce about one hundred thousand dollars more than has hitherto been produced by it from license tax—not that the revenue has been raised on any pursuit or line of business, but that some lines are included now that have escaped heretofore. With the deficit imminent, the administration forces may take satisfaction in the prospect of increased revenue from this source.

The afternoon session might have been without an incident if it had not been for the occurrence of the unusual, when Neel of Jackson was brought to his feet with spectacles in hand, having been removed in excitement from their usual resting place on the fore-ridge of his crust.

It came about in this wise: Mr. Neel had introduced a bill providing for the establishment of a County Court in Jackson, but the bill had a referendum clause attached when it went to the Senate, which it didn't have after having passed under the disjointing blade of that body. It appeared that the bill was presented by request and that neither of the Representatives of Jackson were in favor of it, so the referendum clause was put in; but each of them declared with emphasis that the people did not want it and would refuse to be saddled with it. With such unanimous objection from the Jackson Representatives, the House refused to concur in the Senate amendment, and the bill went traveling back to whence it came, with the request from the House that the Senate recede.

And speaking of recession brings up again those Jackson county relief claims, which Mr. Willis of Levy objected to having the State pay and amended so that Jackson county would eventually have them to pay. These bills went to the Senate and the Senate sent them back, with the request that the House recede from the amendment; the House refused to recede and they went to the Senate again; but again the Senate sent them back to the House with the advice that the Senate insisted that the House recede and asking a conference. The House appointed conferees in the person of Representatives MacWilliams, Williams, Willis of Levy and Kirkland to meet with Senators West (Theop.) Broome and Beard.

The majority report made to the House yesterday, signed by Messrs. MacWilliams and Williams on the part of the House, recommended that the House recede from the amendment; but the minority report, signed by Willis and Kirkland, recommended that the House sustain the amendment. Upon vote the House sustained the report of the minority. In the discussion it was brought out that Judge Malone, who tried the disbarment proceedings, had said that it was right that Jackson county



Majah Alec St. Clair Abrams, greatest letter writer in Florida—yes, in the world. Known everywhere on account of his two great works, "Duels I Have Not Fought," and "Me Choild, Me Choild." These books have been translated into sixteen different languages and read in every uncivilized country.

### CALL ON FLORIDA DELEGATION

In Congress to Urge Power for Interstate Commerce Commission—Resolution by Senator Trammell Is Passed.

Senator Trammell's concurrent resolution, seeking aid of the Florida delegation in Congress to exert influence to have the Interstate Commerce Commission do something really worth while, was passed in the Senate yesterday, with one negative vote, that of Senator Buckman.

When the bill was taken up in the morning, Mr. Buckman tried to give the measure the hook and pull it from the stage, but failed.

He declared that while he had no objection to the resolution, he believed that the Florida delegation in Congress was sufficiently intelligent to understand what to do without being instructed.

"It will give our Representatives in Congress the sense of the Legislature and call attention to the needs of the State," said Mr. Trammell, who saw nothing improper in the resolution.

Mr. Adams said he didn't know what was in the resolution, and moved that it be referred to the Committee on Railroads, so that a report could be made.

Mr. Trammell protested against such action, saying that there was not sufficient time to await a report, and anyway it was not needed. It was not a law, but a resolution, passed, but simply an expression of the state's needs.

The resolution was temporarily passed, that Senator Adams have opportunity for examination, and in the afternoon it was taken up and passed.

Following is the resolution:

Whereas, The Interstate Commerce Commission under the present law has no power to correct unjust and unreasonable freight and passenger rates on interstate freight and passenger traffic, upon its own initiative; and

Whereas, Said Commission lacks power to prohibit railroads and express companies from increasing an existing rate, without consent of the said Commission; and

Whereas, The said Commission has no power to prescribe a uniform classification of freight and passenger rates; and

Whereas, The present Interstate Commerce Commission laws do not give the Interstate Commerce Commission power to cause a just valuation of railroads in order to have a true basis for fixing railway rates; and

Whereas, It is for the best interest of the people of the State of Florida that the powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission be so enlarged and extended as to give to said Commission power to correct unreasonable rates; to prohibit railroads and express companies from increasing existing rates without the consent of the Commission; to authorize the said Commission to prescribe a uniform classification of freight and express rates; and to cause a just valuation of railroads for the purpose of fixing a true basis for fixing railway rates.

Therefore, be it Resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

Section 1. That the Senators and Representatives of Florida in the Congress of the United States be and they are hereby requested to favor and urge such legislation in Congress as will give the Interstate Commerce Commission power to correct unjust and unreasonable rates, upon its own initiative; to prohibit railroad and express companies from increasing an existing rate without the consent of said Commission; to prescribe a uniform classification of freight and express rates; and to also cause a just valuation of railroads in order to have a true basis of fixing railway rates.

Section 2. That the Secretary of State is requested to send each member of Congress from this State a copy of this resolution.

should pay the costs. It was understood previously that he had taxed the cost against the State.

An attempt was made to reconsider two of the good roads bills, but the attempts were fruitless. Even the ardent good roads advocates voted against the movement, evidently recognizing the futility of it and having a sense that the utility of time to some purpose is necessary.

When the House adjourned in the afternoon a bill was pending which seeks to curtail the evil which has grown out of the practice of purchasing tax titles to land, utilizing the timber privileges for a year or two and throwing the property back on the State to make taxes out of it again. Mr. DuPont was turning up a warm talk on the subject when Mr. MacWilliams made the point of order that the hour for adjournment had arrived.

## BLIND TIGERS WILL BE REVEALED

SENATE PASSES FAULKNER BILL THAT WILL  
COMPEL DRUNKS IN DRY COUNTIES TO  
TELL WHERE THEY GOT LIQUOR—"LESS  
CONSTITUTION AND MORE LAW," DEMAND-  
ED MR. CREWS.

Attention of the Senate was directed to House Bill No. 302 for about forty-five minutes yesterday, and then the bill was passed by a vote of 24 yeas to 5 nays.

Those voting nay were: Mr. President, Senators Alford, Beard, Buckman, Clarke, Sams.

The bill was that of Mr. Faulkner of Taylor, to provide a method for the discovery of the illicit sale of intoxicating liquors.

This is to be accomplished by the arrest of a drunken person and compelling testimony as to where he got the liquor.

Senators Buckman and Beard fought the bill strenuously, but their efforts failed against the combined oratory of Senator Humphries, Crews, Massey, Hudson and West (4th).

Mr. Buckman carefully explained that he was a friend to temperance, but did not think that this bill would be of benefit to the cause. Moreover, it was, in his opinion, an illegal measure, and therefore should not become a law.

In this position he was sustained by Senator Beard, who poured the cold water of constitutional argument on the bill.

Senator Massey did not coincide with the belief of his distinguished legal brothers. He did not see the illegalities which they claimed to have discovered, and he thought it was a pretty good bill for the suppression of blind tigers.

When Senator Crews got into the fight for the bill, however, it was soon to be seen that it was not only a question of it passing, but how large the majority would be.

Hammer and tongs, pitchforks and penknives, he went at his task of defending the bill, and so well did he do it, that when Senator Humphries took up the argument where Mr. Crews ended the success of the measure was assured.

It was good old-fashioned camp meeting style of oratory that Mr. Crews put forth to the Senate, full of quaint expressions that struck.

"A little less Constitution," he declared, "and more law for the people is what we want."

"A law that will let us follow the tiger to his hiding place is what we ask, and this bill will give it to us," he added, and then told of conditions he had witnessed of drunkenness that had been caused by the sale of blind tiger whisky, and of the immunity of the sellers.

Senator Humphries made a strong argument for the bill, showing how the illegal dealer could be routed out if the purchaser be forced to reveal where he got the liquor.

Nothing was wanted but the truth, stated Mr. Humphries, and if the liquor was bought in the county the people wanted to know who was selling it, so that steps could be taken for punishment of the dealer.

Senator Adams said: "The Constitution has been violated several times this session, and I don't think one more time will do any harm."

Mr. Humphries—Not such a little jab as this will be, and in such a good cause, too.

Senators Hudson and West (4th) also spoke for the bill, and the roll call indicated that the feeling of necessity for the law outweighed the legal technicalities that had been urged.

### NO ENCOURAGEMENT FOR COUNTY FAIRS.

Defeat was the fate of Senator Buckman's bill to encourage the holding of fairs and expositions.

This bill provided that the County Commissioners could appropriate money for county fairs under certain conditions, and prompt objection was voiced by Senator Humphries, who said: "As the case stands now, the Commissioners appropriate money for such a purpose when it is demanded by public sentiment, but if a law were enacted they might not exercise proper care in ascertaining if public sentiment were in majority."

"Instead, the assurance of a few persons might be sufficient to cause the appropriation. I consider it a dangerous law," he continued.

Mr. Buckman thought this opinion was wrong and that the bill was in no way harmful, but Senator Cone objected to giving the County Commissioners legislative powers, and the end of the bill came by a vote of 16 yeas to 18 nays.

### SEMINOLE COUNTY IN THE SENATE.

Senator Crews introduced a bill yesterday for the creation of Seminole County, which is to be cut out of the northern part of DeSoto.

Senator Humphries, representing the district in which DeSoto is situated, declined to introduce the bill, but no breach of Senatorial courtesy was committed, as he gave Senator Crews permission to introduce the bill, and naturally this implies as well, consent that the latter defend the measure if it is considered by the Senate.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL PIONIC.

Forced to postpone the picnic. Disappointed me about cars again.  
W. N. SHEATS.